

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

STEPHANIE E. VALENTE ET AL

FR 010026

Serial No.

Group Art Unit

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

Ex.

Title: METHOD OF CODING DIGITAL IMAGES BASED ON ERROR CONCEALMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (amended) A coding method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it includes a calculation step of a binary data stream output rate, the decision to exclude macroblocks being made on the basis of this binary data stream output rate.

5. (amended) A coding method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that it includes one or more modules.

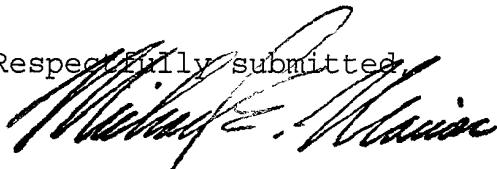
9. (amended) A "computer program" product for a coder comprising a series of functions and a collective resource that the functions access, characterized in that the "computer program" product includes a set of instructions which, when loaded into such a coder, run the method claimed in claim 1 with respect to the coder.

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments to the claims were made solely to avoid filing the claims in the multiple dependent form so as to avoid the additional filing fee.

The claims were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights they may have under the Doctrine of Equivalents. Applicants furthermore reserve their right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

Respectfully submitted,



By _____
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APPENDIX

3. (amended) A coding method as claimed in ~~one of the claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, characterized in that it includes a calculation step of a binary data stream output rate, the decision to exclude macroblocks being made on the basis of this binary data stream output rate.

5. (amended) A coding method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that it includes one or more modules ~~for the purpose of carrying out the characteristic steps of one of the claims 2 and 3~~.

9. (amended) A „computer program“ product for a coder comprising a series of functions and a collective resource that the functions access, characterized in that the „computer program“ product includes a set of instructions which, when loaded into such a coder, run the method claimed in ~~one of the claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 with respect to the coder.